

I am on the Board of Directors of Okemo Valley TV and am writing in reference to Docket 05 -111..Second Further Notice and Proposed Rulemaking. Our Executive Director has already filed comments on behalf of the station and I am writing in support of his comments.

I first became involved in public access television as the principal of a small elementary rural school in Vermont around 2002. Our students were invited into the station to learn about all aspects of TV production. They were so lucky and thrilled to have this experience. They learned a wide variety of skills in a short time from the TV staff. I recognized how valuable this experience was and have been supporting the station ever since and every year since that time, the station has collaborated with my school. Some of my students have become so excited after having this opportunity that they have ultimately pursued careers in media. They expound on the value of this experience.

The station offers access to the citizens of the community to utilize the studio and equipment to produce their own shows. The staff works with closely with the citizens of the community to train them on how to use the cameras and editing equipment. Other individuals produce their own shows by bringing in the content and often guests for shows and the staff use the studio to record sessions. We have received great feedback from the community for the locally produced shows.

We also record and broadcast many of the events that go on in our town so if citizens are not able to attend the events, they can at least be engaged from the comfort of their own homes.

OVTV also records and broadcasts many of the local town government and school meetings that happen on a regular basis. Community members who are not able to attend the meetings or those who just don't take the initiative to attend the meetings can still be informed about their community. I have heard many comments for citizens that they have watched the meetings and as a result are informed. As a response to these viewings, some individuals then attend the meetings when there is an issue that has meaning to them. I have heard many positive comments from individuals about this service.

I am writing as I have serious concerns about the proposed rules and what it may mean to local access stations. Although our budget has several smaller revenue streams, by far the majority of the revenue to support the station

comes from the franchise fees. Indeed we are very dependent on these fees, which are generated by cable subscribers.

I am concerned if the cable companies place a value on in-kind services that provide to access centers such as ours and this is deducted from our franchise fees, the viability of our station will be jeopardized. The benefits of having local access TV opportunities in our community are exponential and the thought of losing all that we have developed over the years is crushing.

I am therefore writing this letter in opposition to the rule and respectfully request the FCC not approve this rule and cause the demise of public-access television not only in Ludlow, but also across the entire country.

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